

accounts in the amount of previously Discount Operator authorized and Discount Issuer deducted discounts.

[c6]

the method in claim 3, wherein a means of providing and manipulating a plurality of data for the determination of circumstances under which a plurality of retailer/merchant or Discount Issuer are also the vendor or Discount Originator; and

determinations of a plurality of Discount Originator receiving authorized discounts from themselves, and reimbursements to themselves or simply receive notifications of transactions & net funds transfers of zero.

[c7]

Abstract of Disclosure

[0023] The present invention overcomes all the deficiencies and disadvantages associated with the current paper coupon redemption system by using existing technology in an innovative method to process, in real-time, a plurality of purchase discounts, at the time of the consumers purchases. The real-time discount system process involves a plurality of communications protocols to establish communications connectivity to Discount Database via online purchase, POS machine, POS acquirer/merchant banking system or other proprietary electronic telecommunication sessions, to transmit "Discount Requestor", "Discount Issuer", & Purchase Inventory Data-PID over a plurality of various communications medium such as ADSL, Cable, Satellite, Wireless, Phone Line Modem etc. The process includes a plurality of POS Machines located at a plurality of retailer locations, a plurality of consumers utilizing PVC magnetic strip type ATM/Check Card, smartcards or other select identification assets to initiate the discount cycle during the purchase process, a plurality of software programs (software and/or other intellectual property that is the subject of other patent/s) to provide control, interface, input/output and communication capability. The POS data link uses a typical protocol such as Telnet, TFTP, TCP/IP, Telnet, DHCP, PPPoE, SNMP, FTP, STMP, etc., to transmit a plurality of encrypted data via 10Base-T/100Base Network interface as well as dialup modem. This discount system is a process where in the following entities ("Discount Requestors, Discount Originators", Discount Issuer, Discount System Operator, Discount Database, Discount Fund) manage, communicate, establish, send and receive and otherwise interact to provide the unique service of distributing purchase discounts in real-time. The system provides authentication, authorization, PID such as User ID, UPC Data purchase location etc., and transfers to Discount Database via interface software and existing telecommunication infrastructure.

This invention comprises a process relating to the following 5 major entities, accomplishing the following tasks: integrated electronic correspondence database (1.) "Discount Database" and electronic communications infrastructure which stores and allows query of a plurality of numerous vendors specific products and product information by consumer purchase inventory data discount requests electronically connected via existing public or proprietary electronic data links. The purchase discounting process allows consumers at point of purchase to receive instant in-store discounting of item/s currently being purchased. The consumers (2.) "Discount Requestor" can access the system at a plurality of POS locations or system interface points that honor any plurality of discount system ID devices (i.e. smartcard, magnetic card, etc.) and system initiation mechanisms. The Discount Requestor also utilizes a plurality of services provided by the "Discount System Operator" to automatically or manually seek and pursue a plurality of discounts and/or guarantees of discounts to be provided. The vendors (3.) "Discount Originator" use the discount system and participates in the process by providing information on items prescribed for discounts to the system via electronic data link access to the Vendor Discount Inventory database and providing reimbursement. The retailers (4.) "Discount Issuer" use the discount system and participates by recognizing or honoring any plurality of system ID devices and provide electronic connection and transmission (5.) "Discount System Operator" installs software at the retailer location that provides connectivity for reception for PID (Purchase Inventory Data) transmitted to and authorizes access to the "Discount Database" which includes the performs tasks such as database authentication, quarry, reporting, correspondence and discount authorization. The Discount System Operator also reimburses retailers for discounts issued and seeks reimbursement from vendors and wholesalers for discounts reimbursed.

Figures